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FITTS DENIES MAYOR'S STATEMENTS

BOOST OF 19c IN CITY TAX RATE THREATENED

CITY'S ASSESSED VALUATION HAS NEARLY SIX MILLION DROP

Figures Just Released By County Assessor Show This City Nearly 25 Per Cent Below Valuation of Year 1931-1932 for Tax Purposes

Assessed valuation of Torrance as compiled for county taxation purposes during the fiscal year 1932-33 shows a decrease of \$5,665,320, according to figures released today by Ed W. Hopkins, county assessor.

The new assessed valuation for Torrance as computed by the county assessor is \$18,347,475, as compared with \$24,012,895 for 1931-32.

Real estate, improvements and personal property this year are valued at \$18,593,175, as compared with \$24,289,800 for the previous year, showing a decrease of \$5,696,625.

Stocks and bonds owned by Torrance residents are assessed this year at \$102,620, as compared with \$148,245 for 1931-32, a decrease of \$45,625.

Solvent credits, or moneys due Torrance residents, show a valuation of \$151,970, as against \$75,050, an increase of \$76,920.

Total assessed valuation of the county for all purposes this year is \$23,554,993,284, as compared to \$1,322,789,013 for 1931-32, a decrease of \$768,795,729.

These assessment figures, however, are subject to change upon close of the meetings of the board of equalization. For the county as a whole, improvements show a 20 per cent reduction and real estate shows a decrease of 23 per cent.

Whether or not the county tax rate will remain the same as a result of the lowered valuation is a matter for the board of supervisors to decide between now and August 15.

19c Increase In Tax Rate Forecast

In order to raise sufficient funds to cover the tentative budget of \$163,513.24, adopted two weeks ago by the Torrance city council, it will be necessary to levy an 87-cent municipal tax this year, which is an increase of 19 cents over last year's municipal rate of 68 cents.

When the budget was adopted two weeks ago, Councilman Ludlow, chairman of the finance committee, expressed the opinion that the total assessed valuation would be approximately 20 million dollars, which would have permitted a city tax rate of 90 cents. However, the actual assessment figures as compiled by the county assessor are over a million dollars below Ludlow's estimate, which will necessitate an 87-cent municipal tax unless there is a rigid paring of the tentative city budget. An 87-cent rate does not allow for any shrinkage in revenue due to delinquencies in tax payments, and some members of the city council anticipate that the rate may be set at 90 cents in order to cover the expected delinquencies.

The council has until the last meeting in August to set the rate.

Brotherhood Invites Fitts to Speak Here

Central Church Men Prepare a Program of Outstanding Interest

District Attorney Buron Fitts of Los Angeles has been invited to speak in Torrance, Sunday evening, July 31. Mr. Fitts comes at the invitation of the Brotherhood of Central Evangelical church, who have arranged a program of interest as well as of education and the public is bidden to attend to learn what they can do to make this city a better place in which to live.

No community advances beyond the ideals of its citizenry, and this is the thought which prompts this organization to bring speakers to Torrance who are able, forceful and of high ideals. From time to time the Brotherhood has called such speakers, men and women who hold high places of responsibility, and it is the intention of the local group to continue to offer such speakers to the Torrance people.

In inviting Mr. Fitts, the opportunity is offered to hear a man of national repute and undisputed ability, who will discuss the present troubled conditions and suggest some remedies.

Water Company Aids Relief Association With Free Service

Since the organization of the new Veterans Relief Association which began to function on Tuesday, many contributions have been made to aid in its work. Two ice boxes were turned over to the warehouse, to hold the consignments of fish and other perishable food stuffs, and the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company has ordered its service department to connect and furnish water to the building at 1324 El Prado free of charge.

Nurserymen have contributed plants and shrubs which have been set out in front of the building. In a letter addressed to W. H. Stanger, manager of the enterprise, the president of the company, E. C. Nelson, says, "We heartily concur in the movement for the unemployed fostered by the organization of which you are manager. It is a very worthy cause and this community is very fortunate in calling your services as head of this project."

Nephew of McGinley Buried With Honors At Sawtelle Monday

Joey R. Richards, nephew of Frank McGinley, was buried at the National Military cemetery, with military honors, Monday morning, July 18, at Sawtelle. Comrade Joey, served with the armed forces of the United States in Company "K" 343rd Infantry, 91st division, overseas, and unfortunately was wounded and gassed, which left his falling effects as he deceased was but 35 years of age.

Commander Lee S. Buckley of the L. A. Harbor Chapter No. 43, Disabled American Veterans of the World war, with Frank McGinley, arranged all details of the service. A number of friends of the deceased and his family, from Wilmington and Lomita, attended the services.

Benner Undergoes Appendix Operation

J. J. Benner, member of the Torrance fire department, underwent an emergency operation for appendicitis late Wednesday afternoon. He is reported as getting along nicely.

NEW RELIEF ASSOCIATION IS FUNCTIONING IN TORRANCE

Many Workers Have Already Registered at Headquarters Established Tuesday Morning on El Prado; Compton Idea Adopted

Quick action followed the visit of W. T. Downing, manager of the Veterans Relief Association at Compton, who came to Torrance Monday night in response to an invitation from a committee of representative citizens to explain before a mass meeting in the council chamber just what his organization represented and the work it was doing.

Mr. Downing spent about an hour telling about the growth of the association, and explaining the workings of the system, and at the end of that time the local audience proceeded to adopt the Compton plan of local relief and selected a manager.

The manager, William H. Stanger, started to work at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning.

He had plenty of assistance, and by 9 o'clock the headquarters, donated by Sam Levy, at 1324 El Prado, had been cleaned up, the yard in front was polished up and a big sign erected, donated by the Modern Sign Co., "Men Wanted." Office furniture and equipment sent over by the National Supply Company was moved in.

Two trucks were supplied with gasoline by donation of Mayor W. T. Klusman and H. F. Ulbright and were sent to Compton to bring back a supply of vegetables to start the workers off on their first issue of rations which are supplied in exchange for their services.

Carpenters, electrical workers, and other tradesmen furnished the man power to put the warehouse in shape to receive the supplies.

Workers are being registered daily at the headquarters and are assigned to their duties. The proposition is not one of charity, but is maintained on a plan to supply those who are willing to work for their food with the necessities of life. The Compton idea as explained by Mr. Downing, is a sound workable plan to exchange labor for food. Workers are registered at the headquarters, and are sent out in squads under the direction of a foreman to work wherever their services can be used. Principally the men go to work for the farmers of the district, helping to harvest the crops of vegetables and fruit in exchange for produce. The produce is placed in the warehouse and each man who is registered and who has reported

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Renewed Action In Local Plants Is Encouraging Prospects For Business Revival In Torrance Take On Rosier Hue

According to reports from the Ford Motor Company plant at Wilmington, production at this unit is expected to be stepped up from 173 to 200 cars a day by August 1. The plant payroll now totals 1800 men working two eight-hour shifts. Orders for cars have been coming in steadily from distributors in the Pacific coast states, so that it has been necessary to ship motors and parts from the east to supply the local plant with working material.

Two new manufacturing outfits opening in Torrance during the past week, announcement of a vast expansion program at the local steel plant, and the installing of a new unit for the preparation of sodium silicate for commercial use at the Dicalite plant near Welteria, are encouraging aspects of business conditions in and about Torrance.

At the Pittsburg plant of the Columbia Steel Corporation, the Pittsburg Post-Dispatch reports all departments working except the sheet mill, and that it was said might get under way within a few days. The departments which were busy were the rolling mill, tin mill, foundry, wire and nail departments. The Post-Dispatch says: "Among the underlying factors giving rise to some conservative optimism in steel circles during the past week was the increase in hog prices and the relative shortage of canned fruits and vegetables in warehouses throughout the nation."

"The steel industry is closely linked with agriculture since when the farmer has money a large part of his expenditures ultimately are reflected in steel activity, it was pointed out today. "The coming summer is expected to witness a stiffening of steel production with a gradual rise scheduled for fall according to many economists."

"Present Crisis" Subject of Talk to Kiwanis Club

Judge Arthur Briggs Delivers Forceful Address to Local Club

Judge Arthur E. Briggs, judge of the superior court, spoke before the Kiwanis club Monday on "Our Present Crisis and Ways Out." Dr. Briggs, dean of the Metropolitan University law college said in part:

"Our present crisis is as much a moral crisis as it is a financial crisis. The hardships of the present time are most deplorable, but they serve to warn us that the practices of 'boom' time are not adequate for the maintenance of sane life for either individual or nation."

"I predict," said Dr. Briggs, "that the new American life will be better than any in the past. We have broken down the family. We will now restore it. We have appeared to encourage occupations which exploit and prey upon others. We will now eliminate these questionable occupations. Merit and true human worth have always received exceptional rewards in America, but now they shall have more opportunity and certainty for success than ever before."

Local Firemen Save Walteria Woman's Life

Prompt and efficient work by the Torrance inhalator squad of the fire department saved Mrs. Aurnes Godak, 55, of Park street, Walteria, from almost certain death Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Godak had been accidentally overcome with fuel gas in her home. An attending physician admitted he could do nothing and advised calling the inhalator squad.

When Chief Hannebrink, Asst. Chief Ollie Stevenson and City Clerk Bartlett arrived, they found that Mrs. Godak had almost stopped breathing, but after an hour's efficient work with the inhalator, the victim recovered and is reported well again this morning.

New Shipment of Government Flour Brought to Torrance

A new shipment of 400 sacks of flour has been received in Torrance and is being distributed to needy families under the direction of Mrs. Caroline Collins, president of the Torrance Relief Society and acting Red Cross representative here.

The new supply brings the total of flour brought to Torrance in three months to 2250 sacks, 1550 of which have already been handed out.

Mrs. Collins and her assistants are at the Levy building on Cravens, formerly occupied by the Chevrolet agency, every Tuesday and Saturday morning to receive applications.

Association Asks "Newhaven" Moved

Creation of a "new city" to be known as Newhaven near 220th street and Figueroa, does not meet the approval of the Figueroa street development association, with headquarters in downtown Los Angeles.

The association has written to the board of supervisors protesting this colony of unemployed and has asked that temporary quarters be provided for the residents in the industrial zone, with proper police and sanitation supervision.

Chamber Contract Accepted By Board

The city's contract with the Chamber of Commerce was signed this week by President DeKalb Spurin and Secretary Carl Hyde, on instructions of the board of directors. The council had already adopted a motion to allow the chamber \$6000 to cover its fixed overhead charges for the current year.

NEVER DISCUSSED CHARGES AGAINST STEINER SAYS D. A.

Herald Checks Up On Klusman Interview With Buron Fitts; Steiner Challenges Klusman to Sign Complaint

When called by the Herald to verify statements attributed to him by Mayor Klusman at Tuesday night's city council meeting, District Attorney Buron Fitts flatly denied that he had ever discussed the matter of preferring charges against Councilman Steiner with Mayor Klusman.

During a heated argument over the mandate of the police commission in which Mayor Klusman was told to either publicly apologize to Assistant Fire Chief Ollie Stevenson and Councilman Wright or resign as mayor and president of the council, Klusman reopened his attack upon Councilman Steiner. Klusman in an impassioned address to the audience which filled the council chambers, accused Steiner of misappropriating public funds by ordering the lowering of water pipes on Sepulveda boulevard at city expense.

Klusman stated that the accusations against Steiner were on file in the district attorney's office, and that it was up to him (the mayor) to sign the complaint, as "the district attorney considered the charges criminal," said Klusman. The mayor also stated that had the grand jury not adjourned, that he could have brought the case before that body.

So stated Mayor Klusman Tuesday amid the plaudits of his supporters. But District Attorney Buron Fitts tells a different story, as to the conversation between himself and Mayor Klusman. When called by the Herald to verify the statements attributed to him by Mayor Klusman, Mr. Fitts said: "Why, I never even discussed the matter with Mayor Klusman. He came up to my office and asked me how my campaign was getting on but did not mention the matter to which you refer."

The district attorney said Klusman might have talked with some of his deputies, but that he personally knew nothing of the matter.

Klusman's "Act" The dramatic mayor had planned "his act" well. He had telephoned for an appointment with Mr. Fitts from the city hall where he could be overheard. He insisted that he must see Mr. Fitts personally on a very important matter. After much pleading, he was given an appointment with the district attorney. He left for Los Angeles. He returned with Buron Fitts' campaign stickers plastered conspicuously on his car, outwardly advertising the fact that he had been in to see the district attorney. He arose before the crowd at the council meeting, told of filing accusations in the district attorney's office, and boasted that all he had to do was to sign the complaint, as the district attorney considered the charges criminal. It was a good show, and well acted. We're sure the mayor enjoyed putting it on. Klusmanites in the audience applauded loudly. Too bad, the Herald had to spoil it all by calling District Attorney Buron Fitts—but newspapers have a habit of "getting both sides of a story."

Steiner Unafraid Councilman Steiner apparently has no fears concerning the mayor's threatened charges, because when the mayor finished his speech Tuesday night, Steiner told him he should have signed the complaint two weeks ago and brought the matter before the grand jury, as the sooner Klusman signed the complaint, the quicker the mayor would find out he was wrong.

The whole squabble was precipitated by Steiner ordering the lowering of water pipes to make way for fog county graders working on Sepulveda boulevard. The total expense involved was less than \$100. Steiner says that taxpayers did not pay one cent of the expense, as the work had been done by the city's unemployed and paid

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Klusman Refuses to Apologize or Resign

All Hands Take Part in Wordy Battle Over Charges

The threatened "show-down" between the Torrance police committee and Mayor Klusman was a fizzle. The committee composed of Earl Conner, Scott Ludlow and G. A. R. Steiner, last week in a written communication to the mayor, requested him to either make a public apology to Ollie Stevenson and Councilman Wright or tender his resignation at the Tuesday night meeting of the council.

But the mayor defied the mandate of the committee, saying he "positively and absolutely would not apologize nor resign," adding that if the mayor's chair was declared vacant, "it was up to the council."

In the committee's statement, it also "reprimanded" the mayor for such conduct as unbecoming to a member of the city council, and added that "if similar complaints occur again, this committee will be forced to consider the office of president of the Torrance city council vacant."

Klusman acknowledged that he made a mistake in stating that he did not see Ollie Stevenson had lived over the jail for 12 years, but that Stevenson had lived there for nine years. The mayor admitted he talked to McMaisters, but denied the charges set forth in Stevenson's and Wright's communications. He declined to call witnesses to prove his denial, as he considered the matter "too petty an affair." The mayor complained that he was not called into the meeting of the police committee to defend himself.

Conner Speaks Police Commissioner Earl Conner decried the fact that the council was trifling its time on such small, petty, kiddish matters, instead of working on more constructive things. Conner said he didn't think it was becoming a city employee or the mayor to be quarreling and fussing. "I don't think it is right for the mayor to go around to various meetings stirring up trouble against members of the council."

Conner said he hoped the council would settle down, as it was not pleasant to hear the comments about the Torrance city council that one hears in other towns. "I am not going to be a party to act as a trial judge, on matters that should be settled on a sand lot," concluded Conner.

Ludlow Agrees Councilman Ludlow endorsed the sentiments of Councilman Conner, and added that he had talked with Ollie Stevenson and that the fireman was willing to move from his quarters over the jail, providing the council advanced his salary sufficiently to compensate for the rent he now enjoyed, as the rent was always considered a part of his compensation. Ludlow said

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C. J. GOLDEN SPEAKS HERE MONDAY NIGHT

Meeting Sponsored by First Voters Club Held in C. of C. Rooms at 8 p. m.

Charles J. Golden, candidate for congress on the Democratic ticket, in the 17th district, will be the principal speaker for the Roosevelt First Voters Club, organized recently, at a meeting to be held in the council chamber at the Chamber of Commerce rooms on Monday evening, July 25.

Golden, who has been identified with Los Angeles city and county public affairs for many years, has spoken before several Torrance audiences in the past few months, and is hailed as a speaker of forceful purpose and sound ideas. He has the gift of making his serious message to the public interesting and convincing. His experiences in public life as a counsellor and as port commissioner have brought him in close touch with the needs of the district and his successful handling of important projects during his past terms of office have fitted him to deal effectively with those of a larger scope.

The Roosevelt First Voters Club, which is sponsoring this meeting, issues an invitation to all voters in Torrance regardless of age or sex to political complexion to attend this and later meetings which will be held every two weeks with prominent speakers, candidates for office on both the Republican and Democratic tickets. Their primary object as a club is the promotion of the candidacy of Roosevelt for president, but their plans are to give the people of Torrance an opportunity to see, hear and judge for themselves the fitness of candidates in both parties for the lesser offices.

Henricks' Body Taken From Sea

After a search of several hours during Thursday night and Friday morning, San Pedro police recovered the body of a man found floating in the ocean about seven miles east of the breakwater. The body had been sighted Thursday night by the crew of the fishing boat, Marietta, floating off the Long Beach shore.

The remains were taken to Goodrich-Halverson mortuary where later the body was identified by Mrs. Noah Henricks of Wilmington as that of her husband who was lost overboard when a yacht capsized while it was being towed from Catalina on May 8. The identification was made by means of the clothing worn by the dead man.

Henricks was a son-in-law of Edward Sidebotham, and was well known in this section.

New Feature to Appear In Herald

Beginning this week, the Herald will add to its list of timely features, a health article prepared by the Los Angeles County Medical Association, in which advice in a general way will be given to assist the public in maintaining health and in avoiding illness through exposure to contagious diseases.

These articles will appear each week under the caption, "The Doctor Speaks," and they will be found to be helpful and instructive.

MOVES TO TORRANCE Eugene Lassone, manager at the A. & P. Tea store, has moved to the Proctor apartments on Gramercy avenue.